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Esther J. Lee • Signal

A view of the crowded courtyard. Georgia State's enrollment for the 2010-2011 year is approximately 31,000, a new record for the school.

## Limited courses, class size increase may affect students' education

By **EMILY YANG**  
Staff Writer  
and **SHEENA ROETMAN**  
Editor in Chief

Students may not be getting the most out of their college experience due to limited course availability and increasing class sizes each semester.

More than 31,000 students are enrolled at Georgia State University this fall, and 2,400 of them are new transfer students who register for courses after freshmen.

Some students, such as Martha Ocegüera, a senior, register right when registration opens. Ocegüera sets her alarm clock early on the morning of registration in order to register for all her courses.

Some students, such as juniors Emma Kelly and Lisa Magnant, have a set schedule due to their enrollment in a nursing program that automatically decides which classes are required at any given time.

Kelly said that if she was not enrolled in a nursing program, she would be able to register for other courses.

Not all students register early or are in a program with such rigid time tables. For instance, junior Nate Nelson had to settle for night classes because he registered one week before the beginning of spring semester.

In addition, some courses are only offered at certain times during the year.

"I have a friend who has to be here an entire year beyond what he wanted to because of one class," senior Matthew Sansbury said.

To avoid staying longer than required, some students are even changing their majors.

"I actually had to change my major because I couldn't get into any art classes," transfer student Lindsey Davis said. "I would've had to stay here for four years instead of just two years and I just wasn't going to do six years to get a bachelor's degree."

Prerequisite courses generally fill up the fastest and typically have the largest class sizes.

Nelson is taking an Accounting course that has more than 300 students. Though he is able to e-mail his instructor about

inquiries, he feels as though his instructor might be overwhelmed by the amount of incoming student e-mails and may not be able to respond in a timely matter.

"[A large class size] affects how much help might be available if a student needs it," Nelson said.

For additional help, students may participate in Supplemental Instruction (SI), a program led by an SI leader that "offers free, out-of-class, study sessions for traditionally difficult courses," according to the Georgia State website. SI is not available for all courses.

"Accounting is hard so if [the class] was smaller I believe that it [would] be easier," Nelson said. He prefers a smaller classroom to build a better relationship with his instructors.

"Growing enrollment and a smaller budget leads to bigger classes," English professor Malinda Snow said.

Snow has been teaching at Georgia State since 1973 and typically teaches a Practical Grammar course.

More students are asking to get

in via overflow and though Snow is able to let some students into the class, she is unable to respond to the needs of all student inquiries.

A desired class size for a language or literature class is 25 to 30 students and the larger the class sizes, the less time there is for students, Snow said.

To cater to large classes, instructors may be limited to lecture-only instruction.

Larger class sizes add more people to the discussion, Sansbury said.

On the other hand, Magnant said that a large class size is "a little bit of a distraction."

One of the reasons why Magnant does not like large classrooms is because students ask so many questions that the instructor is unable to get through the PowerPoint presentations or lectures.

"We have to move kind of fast because it's a 50-minute class," Nelson said, describing his Accounting class. "I don't really like that."

Even if students are stuck on something, the instructor still has

## Multiple armed robberies hit campus community

By **SHEENA ROETMAN**  
Editor in Chief

Two separate Georgia State students reported armed robberies within twenty minutes of each other on the evening of Monday, Sept. 20, according to a campus alert sent via email at 9:38 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

Both incidents reported the same suspects—two unknown black males, one described as being 6'2" and 300 lbs, with dark jeans and a "black polo type shirt" and the second being described as weighing 5'9" and 160 lbs and wearing a lime green shirt with "graphics on the front."

The first robbery occurred at 11:05 p.m. at Peachtree Street and Auburn Ave. and the second at 11:25 p.m. at Piedmont Ave. and Auditorium Place. There were no injuries reported in either instance.

There have been seven incidents reported by campus police in 2010, including the two Sept. 20 incidents.

**The Georgia State Police Department requests that anyone with any information call the Police Tip Line at 404-413-3211.**

**Students who wish to request police escorts may call 404-413-2100.**

to move forward because of the 50-minute class time, he said.

Because of the limited time instructors have to answer students' questions, students may feel pressured to learn only the material covered by the next exam.

## Hurricane Katrina victim stands back up

By JUDY KIM  
Staff Writer

Five years after surviving the natural disaster that swept the entire country, proud survivor Ms. Dionne Gant, otherwise known as Ms. D, has established herself in Atlanta as an old-fashioned candy maker and business owner.

Ms. D has sold her products across the country, but you can find her original shop right down the street at the Sweet Auburn Market across from Cafe Campesino.

"I relocated here five years ago after Hurricane Katrina," Ms. D said. "I wanted to literally find myself in a place of peace after the devastation and loss."

Ms. D's journey wasn't an easy one.

After the hurricane had come and swept up her entire life, she and her family were relocated to

Mississippi, Alabama, and then finally to Atlanta.

"The people in Atlanta have showed so much love and compassion," Ms. D said. "One day, I will make the people of Atlanta proud."

Ms. D's candy-making business is something she considers to be a "lifelong journey," using a recipe she's perfected for over 25 years.

Before finally deciding to open up her own candy business, Ms. D was going through a divorce of 20 years and decided that it was time to focus on matters that pertained directly towards her happiness-making cakes and candy.

She currently sells pralines in nine different flavors including coconut, almond, walnut, pecan and several other flavors.

Ms. D carries classical snacks such as trail mix, candy

apples, praline apples, caramels and the Triple Flavor World Famous Popcorn (caramel, butter and cheddar flavor). Another interesting menu item are the pratzels, which are praline-covered pretzels.

Ms. D sells her products regularly to 166 different businesses in Atlanta, such as to vendors and at restaurants. She also bakes and delivers cakes to any ordering parties.

Ms. D was even invited to the Soul Food Museum Tour, which covers and treks all 48 states on the mainland.

The Soul Food Museum Tour is a tour for the African-American population who have already been able to put their products on the market. This event is sponsored by Coca-Cola, and Ms. D was approached by the scouts themselves while working at her Sweet Auburn store.

A spokesperson for the people of Hurricane Katrina and now an independent business woman, Ms. D has accomplished a lot since the tremendous loss five years ago.

Open from 11 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays thru Fridays, and 8 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

On Sundays and Mondays, Ms. D closes her store so that she can attend to her church duties.

"I get my inspiration from God," Ms. D said. "God is my greatest inspiration."



Judy Kim • Signal

Ms. D has been selling pralines for five years. Her first restaurant is right here at the Sweet Auburn Curb Market.

### Ms. D's Price List

Pralines.....	\$2 a piece
Trail Mix.....	\$2.29
Popcorn.....	\$2.99 or 2 for \$5
Pretzels.....	\$2.29
Candy Apples.....	\$1.79
Praline Apples.....	\$1.99

# HOMECOMING



# KICK OFF

## the Tradition

09/27 - 10/02

### 2010 HOMECOMING Schedule of Events

Monday, Sept. 27

- **Good Morning Commuters**, 8 - 10 a.m., Unity Plaza

Tuesday, Sept. 28

- **Homecoming Carnival**, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Hurt Park and Gilmer St.
- **CAA Blood Drive**, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sports Arena

Wednesday, Sept. 29

- **Cinema Under the Stars**, 9 p.m., Urban Life Plaza, Movie: *Date Night*; bring blanket or chair

Thursday, Sept. 30

- **Golf Cart Parade**, 12:15 p.m., starts at University Commons & ends at the Student Recreation Center
- **Homecoming Concert by Big Boi**, doors open 7 p.m.; show at 8 p.m., Tabernacle Atlanta, 152 Luckie St. Discount tickets for GSU students. Opening acts: So Contagious & Dondria
- **Office Door Decorating Contest**

Friday, Oct. 1

- **Distinguished Alumni Association Awards Dinner**, 6:30 p.m., 200 Peachtree Events & Conference Center, 200 Peachtree St., Cost: \$50/person; \$375/table of 8

- **Homecoming Coronation and Ball**, 9 p.m., Student Center Ballroom, Free for GSU students; \$5/guest

Saturday, Oct. 2 (Family Weekend begins)

- **Family Weekend Breakfast**, 9 a.m., Student Center, Free for members; \$10 for non-members
- **Alumni Association Tailgate**, 10:30 a.m., Georgia Dome Orange Lot, Free for members; all others \$5-\$10
- **SGA Tailgate**, 11 a.m., Georgia Dome Brown Lot, Free for students
- **Family Weekend Tailgate**, 11 a.m., Georgia Dome Brown Lot, \$25/person
- **Homecoming Game** vs. Morehead State, 1 p.m., Georgia Dome, Halftime performance: GSU Marching Band; unveiling of Homecoming Court
- **Homecoming Finale Bash**, 9 p.m., Student Center, Free for GSU students; \$5/guest



For more event details, go to [www.gsu.edu/homecoming](http://www.gsu.edu/homecoming)